

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no X

Property Name: Pugh-Plummer House Inventory Number: M: 14-67
Address: 23500 Ridge Road City: Germantown Zip Code: 20876
County: Montgomery USGS Topographic Map: Gaithersburg
Owner: Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission Is the property being evaluated a district? _____yes
Tax Parcel Number: 825 Tax Map Number: FW12 Tax Account ID Number: 00023477
Project: Demolition of Buildings at 23500 Ridge Road Agency: M-NCPPC
Site visit by MHT Staff: X no _____yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? _____yes X no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district _____yes Eligible district _____yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource _____yes _____no Non-contributing but eligible in another context _____

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible _____yes _____no

Criteria: _____A _____B _____C _____D Considerations: _____A _____B _____C _____D _____E _____F _____G _____None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Pugh-Plummer House faces southeast toward Ridge Road and is a 2 1/2-story, three-bay by one bay frame structure on a CMU foundation, with weatherboard siding fastened with wire nails and a gable roof that has asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a cross-gable centered on the southeast elevation, with saw-tooth pattern wood shingles and a one-light sash that has a triangular top. Later siding has been removed from the whole house to expose the original siding beneath builder's felt. There is an addition on the northeast end that creates a four bay front. This addition is two stories and one bay by two bays, with a CMU foundation, German siding with wire nails, and a hip roof with asphalt shingles. There is an ell on the rear of the main block that is two stories and two bays by one bay. It has a CMU foundation, weatherboards with wire nails, and a gable roof that has asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge. The northeast wall of the ell is in the same plane as the northeast wall of the main block. On the southwest of the ell is a one-story addition that is two bays by one bay, has diagonal sheathing exposed below builders felt, has a CMU foundation, and has a hip roof with asphalt shingles. The

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: _____A _____B _____C _____D Considerations: _____A _____B _____C _____D _____E _____F _____G _____None

Comments: _____

Jonathan Beyer
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

5/17/11
Date

NA
Reviewer, NR Program

Date

201101748

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NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

M: 14-67

southeast elevation has an enclosed one-story porch across all four bays, with a center entrance in the main block. The main block and ell have two-over-two sash. The first story has a hall-parlor plan with one room in the ell and a modern kitchen in the southwest addition. The front door opens into the northeast room, and the northeast wall of the main block was removed to open this room up to the northeast addition. This room has knotty pine paneling and a pulvinated architrave that is similar to clamshell moulding but is symmetrical. The dog-leg stairway is located in the west corner of the room. At the top of the stairs on the second story is a landing with two chambers in the main block, one in the ell, and a chamber and bathroom in the northeast addition. Most of the walls are now drywall, though there is some plaster on lath in places. The attic is not floored, and wood shingles survive on the northwest side of the main block roof, now captured beneath the ell roof. The CMU foundation does not have any seams in it.

Also on the property, to the rear of the house, is a CMU two-car garage that is one story tall and has a gable roof with a northeast-southwest ridge and asphalt shingles. Nearby is a shed that is two stories and is banked into a small hill on the southeast. It has a CMU lower story and corrugated metal on the upper story, with a gable roof of corrugated metal and a northwest-southeast ridge.

The Pugh-Plummer House sits on a part of what was the store property of Oliver T. Watkins, a local merchant who lived on the farm just to the west of Cedar Grove. It faces southeast toward Ridge Road (Route 27). After Watkins death in 1894 the property changed hands several times, and in December 1898 Elsie Pugh purchased one acre of the parcel for \$25. The following July she mortgaged the property for \$200, suggesting that she and her husband, Samuel, built the house over the summer of 1899. At this time the house was set very close to the road. When the Pugh's failed to pay on the mortgage, they were foreclosed upon in 1902 and the property was sold at public auction. Unfortunately, the local newspapers do not survive to provide a description, via the sales ad, of the property. The new owner was Ewell R. Plummer, who paid \$800 for the house and lot. At that time the house was probably a 2 1/2-story hall-parlor or lobby-entry plan with a one-story kitchen ell on the rear, covered with weatherboard siding. The front of the house still retains its cross gable with decorative wood shingle siding, a feature that was introduced in the mid-nineteenth century but became especially popular in the 1890-1910 time frame. During the Plummer's ownership an addition was put on the northeast end of the house and the original gable wall taken out on the first story to enlarge that room. The existing stairs also date to this period of changes, making it difficult to determine the original configuration of the house. Also at this time a second story was added to the rear kitchen ell, capturing a portion of the original wood shingle roof under the new ell roof.

The Plummers sold their house in 1940 to Edgar L. Thompson. In 1954 the State Highway Administration planned extensive improvements to Route 27, including leveling out the road, and a new culvert was constructed over the stream just to the north of the Pugh-Plummer House. The culvert was raised, requiring large embankments on either side, and the house was in the way of these embankments, as is shown on SHA plat 12211. Rather than demolish the house, it would appear that the house was moved back from the road about 30 feet, and placed on a new CMU foundation. At the same time a one-story addition was built on the southwest elevation of the ell, and this became a modern kitchen. Much of the original plaster was replaced with drywall, and new architrave was installed throughout. Also, the

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Continuation Sheet No. 2

M: 14-67

house was covered in asbestos shingle siding at this time. It was probably at this time that the garage and large shed or barn at the rear of the lot, both with CMU foundations, were constructed.

The house is clearly not individually eligible for the National Register, due to its move and major alterations. The house is just outside of the NR-eligible Cedar Grove Historic District (M: 14-27), so the possibility of expanding the district to include this property must be considered. The exterior retains most of its character-defining features, and the move was not far, did not remove it from the original lot, and did not change its orientation to the street, but the Pugh-Plummer House suffers from two issues. The house is separated from the district by a gas station that may date to the 1950s. While this building is probably more than fifty years old, the period of significance for the district is the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, and the character of the 1950s work in Cedar Grove is very different than this period. More significant, the house is set down the large embankment back of the gas station and thus does not have the proximity connection with the rest of the district. Thus, the Pugh-Plummer House cannot be made a part of an expanded Cedar Grove Historic District and hence is not eligible for the National Register.

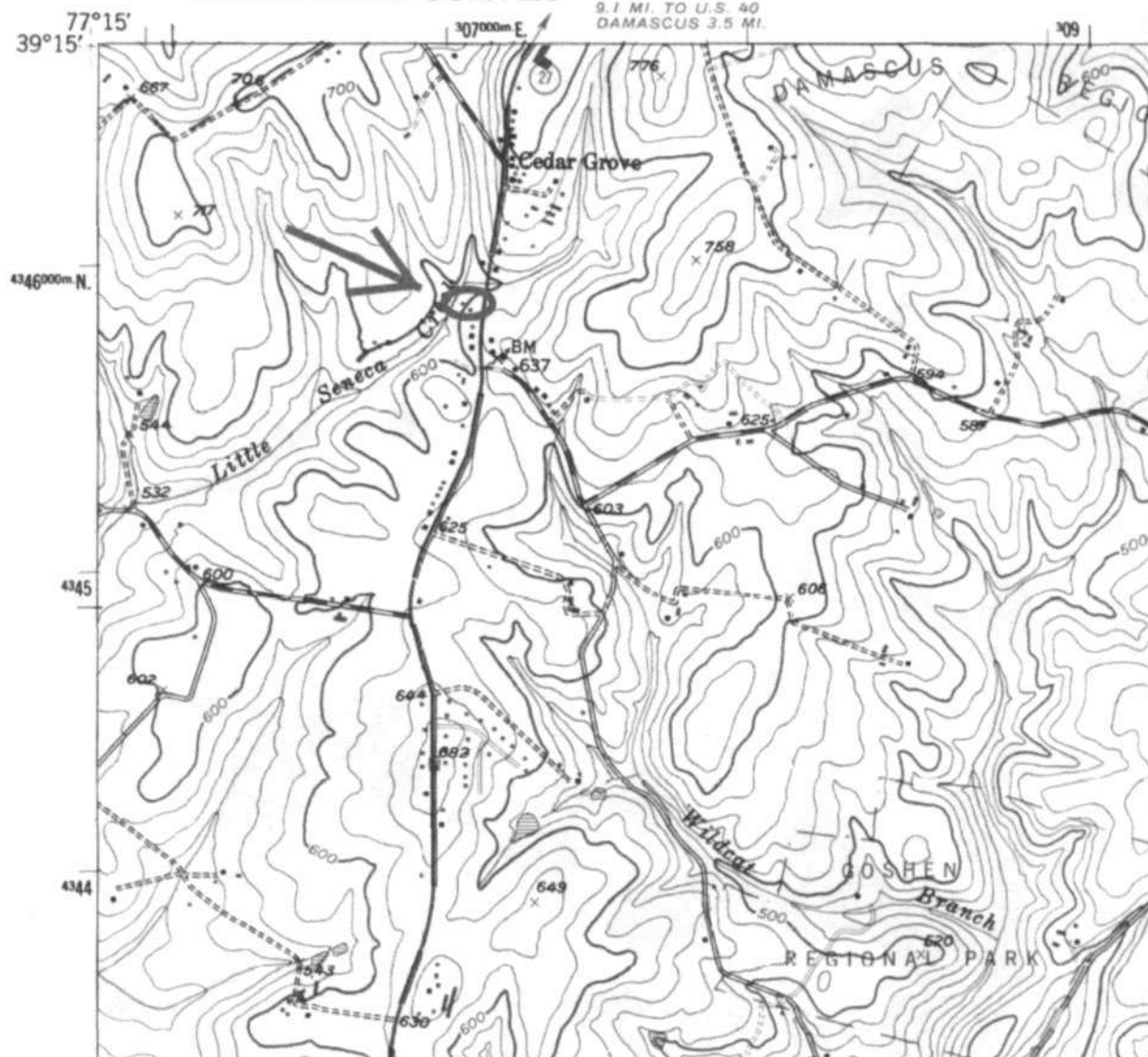
Prepared by: Ken Short

Date Prepared: 20 April 2011

M: 14-67
Pugh-Plummer House
23500 Ridge Road
SHA Plat12211, 1954

562 IV SE
(URBANA)

9.1 MI. TO U.S. 40
DAMASCUS 3.5 MI



M: 14-67
Pugh-Plummer House
23500 Ridge Road, Cedar Grove
Gaithersburg quad



M: 14-67

Pugh-Plummer House

23500 Ridge Rd

Montgomery Co, MD

Ken Short

25 March 2011

MD SHPO

House, SE & NE elevs

1/4



M: 14-67

Pugh-Plummer House

23500 Ridge Rd.

Montgomery Co, MD

Ken Short

25 March 2011

MD SAPO

House, NW & SW ekus

2/4



M: 14-67

Pugh-Plummer House

23500 Ridge Rd

Montgomery Co, MD

Ken Short

25 March 2011

MD SHPO

Garage, SE & NE elevs

3/4



M: 14-67

Pugh-Plummer House

23500 Ridge Rd.

Montgomery Co, MD

Ken Short

25 March 2011

MD SHPO

Shed, SW & SE elevs

4/4